

In the Claims:

~~Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice.~~

~~Please add the following claims:~~

--23. A method for providing trophic support for cells *ex vivo* comprising administering to neuronal cells from a patient suffering from a condition capable of treatment with a neurotrophic factor a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide consisting of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.

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24. The method of claim 23 wherein the patient suffers from a condition selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, ischemic stroke, brain injury, acute spinal cord injury, nervous system tumors, multiple sclerosis, infection, dementia, epilepsy, and peripheral nerve injury.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is Parkinson's disease.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is Alzheimer's disease.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is stroke.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is brain injury.

29. The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is spinal cord injury.

30. A method of increasing the number of mammalian neuronal progenitor cells *in vitro*, said method comprising obtaining hippocampal cells from a mammalian brain and growing said cells in the presence of FGF 98 at a concentration and for a time that results in an increase in neuronal precursor cells compared to mammalian neuronal progenitor cells grown in the absence of FGF 98.